# Effective Evaluation Resource Center



Blumberg Center for Interdisciplinary Studies and The Equity Project

Authentic Assessment of Young
Children: Applications to Everyday
Practice
IAEYC 2013

# Authentic Assessment of Young Children: Applications to Everyday Practice

Sally Reed Crawford scrawford@doe.in.gov

Blumberg Center for Interdisciplinary Studies and The Equity Project

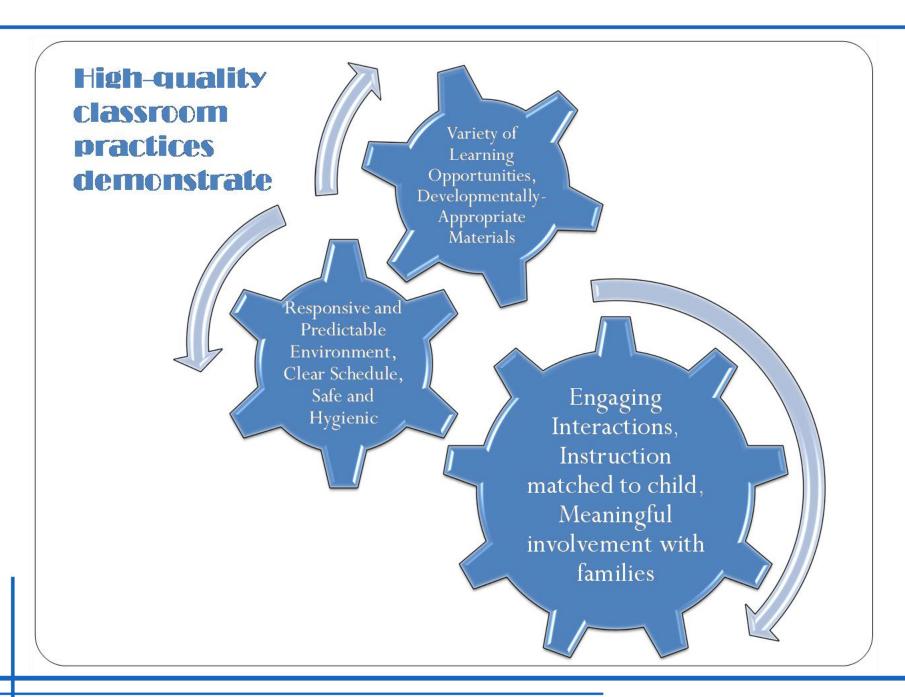
**Effective Evaluation Resource Center** 

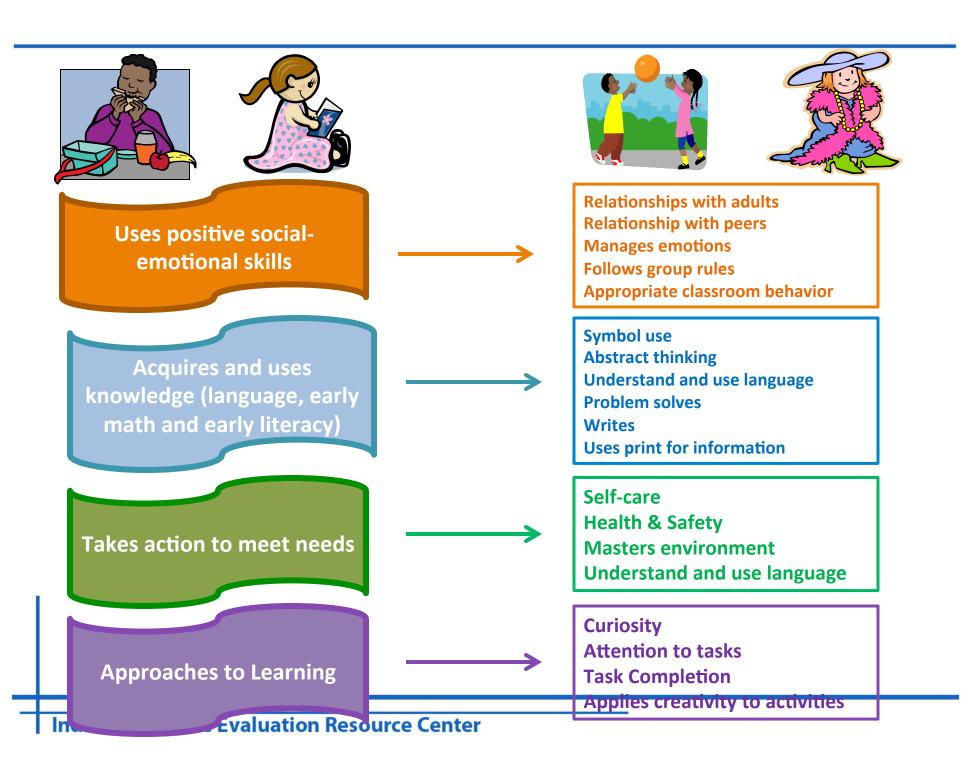


## Learning Objectives

- 1. Define the expectations of the early childhood educator
- Increase knowledge of assessment of young children and its importance to early childhood education programs
- 3. Define authentic assessment practices
- 4. Increase knowledge of practical use authentic assessment = an observation documentation system







Assessment = process of gathering information about children from several forms of evidence, then

Organizing and

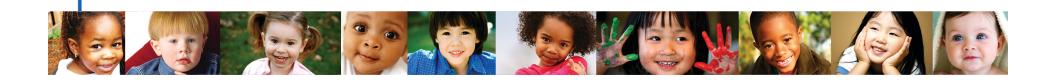
Organizing and interpreting that information.

O. McAfee, D. Leong, E. Bodrova NAEYC, 2004

## Purpose of Assessment:

To make ongoing educational decisions which:

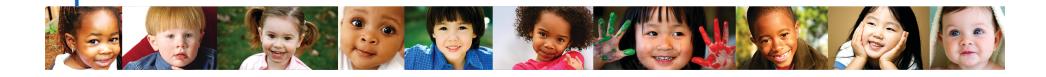
- ✓ Inform and support learning
- ✓ Show child progress
- ✓ Share information
- ✓ Identify children who may need additional services/supports



**Achievement Test** Screening **Assessment Terms** Norm-referenced Criterion-referenced

# Why "testing" young children is not appropriate

- Unique stage of development
- Not good test takers
- Short attention span
- Norm-referenced tests are not field-tested for young children with disabilities
- Norm-referenced tests are generally not appropriate for children with diverse language and culture needs



## Latin derivative of the word assessment

= To sit beside and get to know.





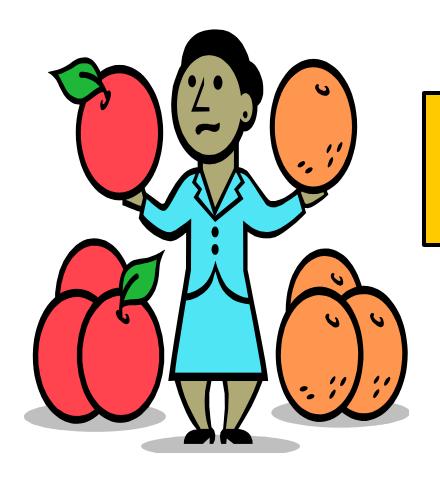
## Child information we gather is...



Evidence = Proof of what the child knows or understands and what the child can do - their progress toward outcomes.

# Are the terms Assessment & Evaluation the same?

Assessment =
Ongoing process
of gathering
information



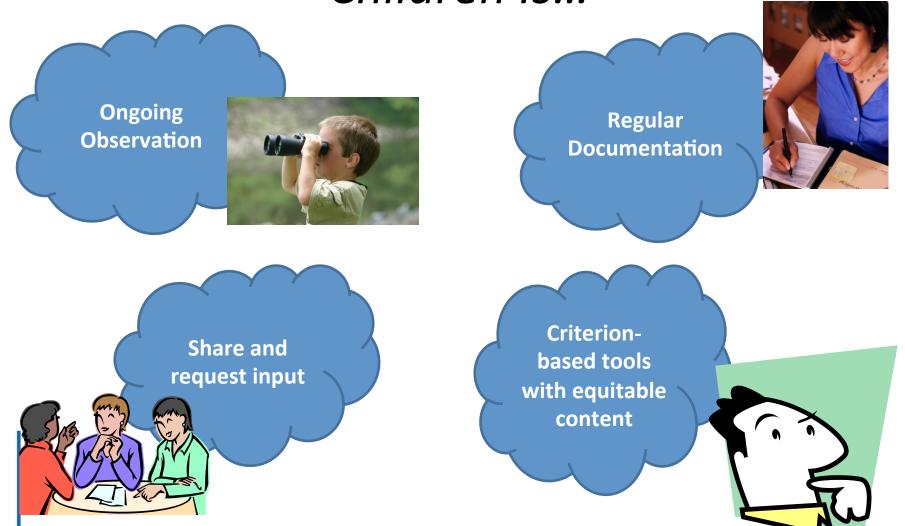
Evaluation =
Interpretation of
gathered
information



# Appropriate Assessment of Young Children is an Authentic Assessment

S. Bagnato, J. Neisworth, MisMeasure of Young Children: The Authentic Assessment Alternative; Infants and Young Children, 2004

Authentic Assessment of Young Children Is...



### So, why authentic assessment and NOT Norm-referenced Tests

for young children?

Meisels, S. Ed.D.

Systematically document what child know and can do

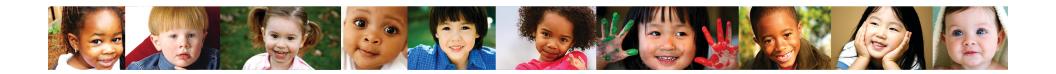
Simple way to inform instruction – developmentally oriented curriculum

Authentic assessment evaluates thinking skills

Authentic
Assessment
puts the
responsibility in
the hands of
the teacher

Authentic
assessment is
flexible – you can
gather
information from
everything
children do

Provides
comprehensive
information for
parents,
administrators,
policy makers



## Early Learning Standards in Indiana = Foundations to the Indiana Academic Standards Birth to Five Years

A curriculum guide of the content and skills young children expected to learn before kindergarten



Math

## ISTAR-KR Birth thru Five (2009)

#### Performance Thread Titles\*

Counting/Quantity
Computation
Time
Location
Length, Capacity, Weight,
Temperature
Sorting, Classifying

**Physical** 

#### Performance Thread Titles\*

Sensory Integration Physical Stability Gross Motor Skills Object Control Precision Hand Skills Social-Emotional

#### Performance Thread Titles\*

Sense of self and others Manages emotions Interpersonal skills Responsibility Problem-solving Approaches to learning

\* Each performance thread contains a continuum of performance items/skills to note child skill level.

**ELA** 

#### Performance Thread Titles\*

Awareness of Sounds
Awareness of Symbols
Uses print for information
Comprehends details
Writes for purpose/audience
Uses writing implements
Receptive Language
Expressive Language

Personal Care

#### Performance Thread Titles\*

Oral Motor Self-feeding Dressing/Undressing Care of hands, face, nose Toileting





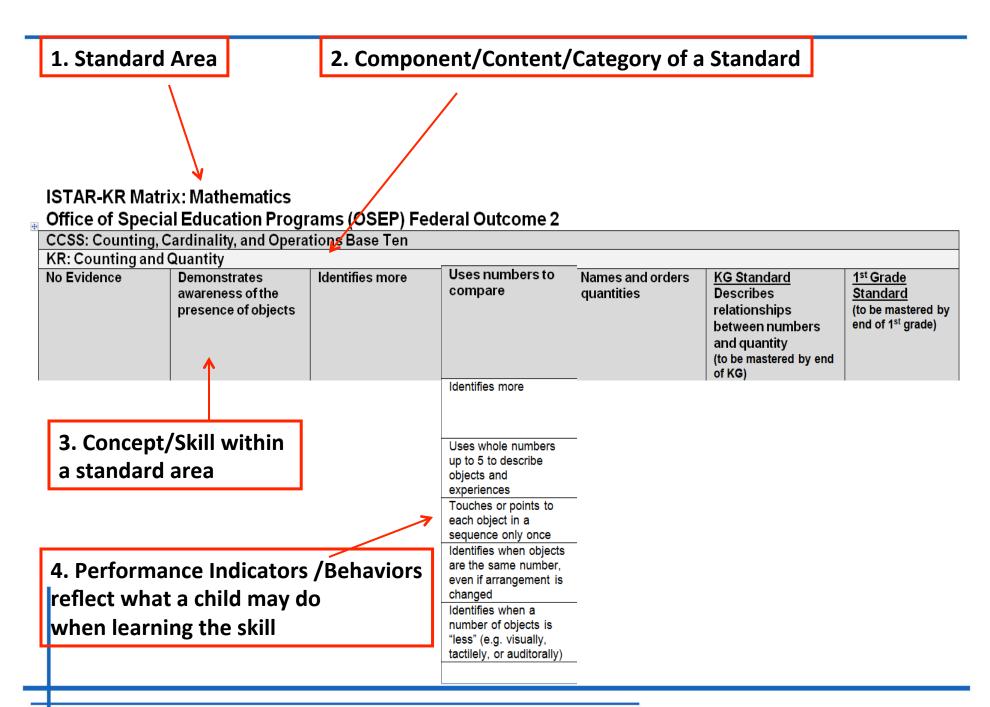












Early Childhood Classroom Weekly Lesson Plan (Include Early Learning Standard per Activity)				
Date	Teacher			
	Child-Directed Activity Exploration			
Blocks	Art	Sensory Table		
Dramatic Play		Library		
Manipulatives	Ongoing Projects	Writing Center		
Reading and Writing	Math Experiences	Scientific Investigations		
Strategies to Relationship Building	Individual Student A	Activity Adjustments		

ECE Weekly Classroom Plan January, 2010 Adapted from Early Learning Standards and Staff Development by Gaye Gronlund and Marlyn James, 2008

Large Motor Skill Opportunities		Outdoor Explorations			
Observations for the Week		How children's challe	thinking will be enged		
Teacher- Directed Large Group Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Teacher- Directed Small Group Time					

LEARNING AREAS/ROUTINES	LEARNING STANDARD & SKILL	ACTIVITY
	Counting and Quantity: Uses numbers to compare	
	Computation: Makes a set of objects smaller or larger	
	Sorting/Classifying: Matches same attributes	
	Completes personal care routines	
	Awareness of Symbols: Recognizes familiar symbols	
	Uses print for pleasure and information: Orients to print in books	
	Serves self food and drink	
	Writes for a purpose and audience: Associates writing with a purpose	
	Interpersonal Interactions: Engages in cooperative interactions	
	Problem-solving: Searchers for possible solutions	
	Approaches to learning: Sustains attention to a challenging activity	

## Authentic Assessment...

Results Matter, Colorado Department of Education, 2009

**Ongoing:** Is a natural part of what teachers do every

day

Whole child: Helps us observe all areas of a child's

growth and development

**Naturalistic:** Occurs as a child interacts with familiar

materials, people and activities

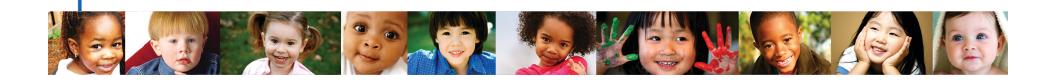
Multiple

**perspectives:** Uses information from a variety of sources

**Useful:** Helps teachers plan, measure progress,

work with families and individualize

curriculum





# The Essential Role of Observation and Documentation

Video clip

# Ongoing observation provides evidence of...

- Child developmental skills,
- Children's strengths, interests, needs,
- How children use materials and use adults,
- What strategies children use to attain their goals,
- What skills children need to practice,
- Children's personalities and learning style.





## Six Key Practices for Effective Observation or Authentic Assessment

- 1. Make observation a routine part of your work
- 2. Engage families in the observation process
- 3. Have a purpose/focus for your observations
- 4. Observe as objectively as possible
- Document regularly and organize your documentation
- 6. Reflect on and se your observations



## Observe children...

- as they interact with familiar toys, materials, and people,
- in the context of everyday routines, activities, and places,
- unobtrusively.



## **Child Observation**

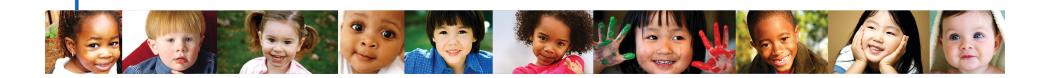
Video Clip



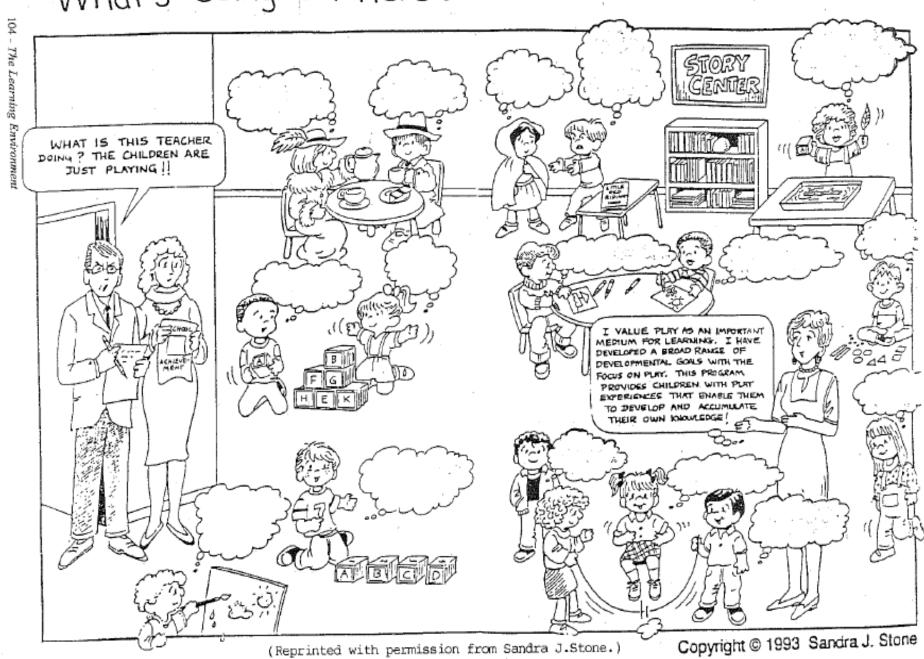


## Reflection Experience

- 1. What did you learn about the children your observed?
- 2. Using a scale between 0 3, with 3 being most objective, how would you rate yourself on objectivity?
- 3. What questions do you have about a child to observe those skills again?



What's Going On Here?



## Be open to learning from families

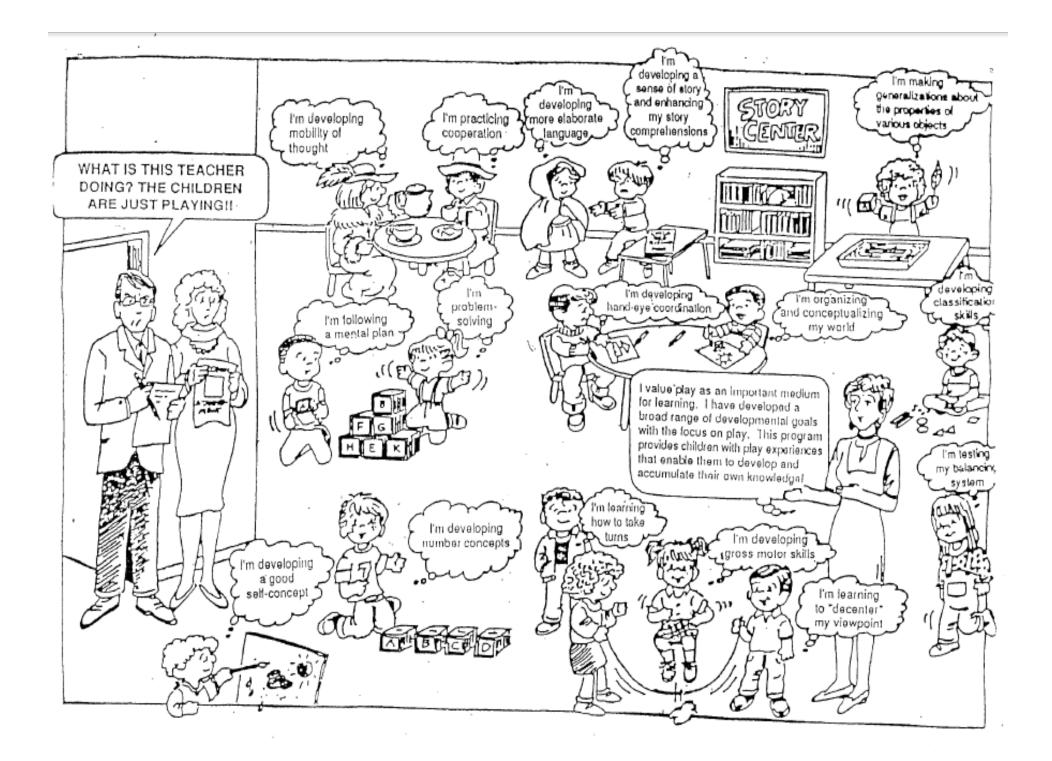
- When families share their observations, the accuracy of a picture of the whole child comes into view
- Let families know that you value their observations and participation in ongoing authentic assessment



# How could we engage families in authentic assessment?

- Give families concrete
   examples of the kinds of
   information you
   would like them to share,
   e.g. skills to respond to
- Make portfolios accessible to families and invite them to contribute
- Place a basket at sign-in for families to drop off photos and notes for the teachers





#### ISTAR-KR Matrix: Personal Care OSEP Outcome 3

Core Standard 1: Or	ral			
0	1	2	3	4
No Evidence	Coordinates sucking, swallowing, breathing	Swallows pureed or lumpy food	Uses tongue to move and munch solid food	Chews with rotary movement
	Opens and closes lips in succession	Coordinates sucking, swallowing, breathing	Swallows pureed or lumpy food	Uses tongue to move and munch solid food
	Purses and rounds lips	Closes lips when swallows	Extends tongue	Manipulates food laterally
	Swallows liquid without choking or gagging in a semi-reclining position and without much leakage	Accepts pureed or lumpy food from spoon and swallows	Sweeps tongue around mouth and lips	Chews with lips together
	Makes a smile and a frown		Manipulates food with tongue	

Core Standard 2: Self-Feeding					
0	1	2	3	4	5
No Evidence	Cooperates with feeding	Assists in feeding self	Feeds Self	Uses utensils and open cup to feed self	Serves self food and drink
	Places hands on boule, or holds own boule	Cooperates with feeding	Assists in feeding self	Feeds self	Uses wensils and open cup to feed self
	Accepts food off of a spoon	Drinks from cup with assistance	Holds and drinks from open cup with some spilling	Uses mensils to feed self	Pours liquid from a container into cup
	Uses tongue to reject food	Grasps earing mensils	May practice feeding self with a spoon	Drinks from open cup without spilling	Spoons food from a container to own plate
	Brings food to mouth with hand	Uses sippy cup or alternate closed cup			Spreads with knife
		Uses fingers to eat small pieces of food			

Core Standard 3: Dressing/Undressing				
0	1	2	3	
No Evidence	Cooperates in	Assists in	Completes	
	dressing/undressing	dressing/undressing	dressing/undressing	
	Holds up arm or leg to dress	Cooperates in dressing/undressing	Assists in dressing/undressing	
	Allows caregiver to dress and undress her	Assists in removal of pull-over or front opening garments	Removes socks or shoes	
	Extends neck when clothing pulled over head	Assists in removal of pants/shorts	Pags on socks and shoes	
		Takes off coat, jacket, caregiver unfastens	Removes loose figing clothes	
		Pulls up pants after caregiver assists	Unfassens and fassens fasteners, but on, snaps, zippers	
		Purs on coat, jacket, caregiver famens	Gets clothes right-side and front and back correctly	
		Unzips or zips, after caregiver prepares	Pags on pares/shores	
		Puts on unfastened shoes	Puts on coat, jacket, hat, and mitten or gloves	
·			Puts shoes on correct feet	

## Observe with a Purpose

- Plan curricula and learning activities
- Document children's progress by focusing your observations
- Share information with families
- Complete an assessment instrument
- Let children know that you value their work
- Share the good work of your program with the community



# Examples of how the purpose of observation should influence how you go about observing

Purpose	You Might		
Plan curriculum and teaching strategies	You might observe children participating in activities and jot down ideas for new activities and changes in the environment		
Measure and describe children's progress	You might have an item in mind from a particular assessment tool and watch for children to demonstrate their level of mastery		
Inform families about their children's learning	You might look for a specific aspect of a child's learning that the parents told you is of interest		
Results Matter, Colorado Department of Education			

Indiana Effective Evaluation Resource Center

Blocks	Writing	Art
Reading		<u>Dramatic Play</u>
	What I want the children to learn	
<u>Math/Numbers</u>		Music /Movement
	V	
<u>Nature/Science</u>	Sensory Play	Small Motor/Manipulative

### Observation might be planned or spontaneous

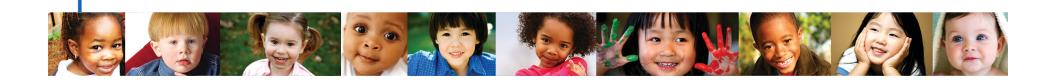
Results Matter, Colorado Department of Education

#### **Planned**

Sometimes we intentionally plan our observations for specific purposes. When we do this, we might plan how, when, and where we will observe

#### **Spontaneous**

Other times, we observe spontaneously in response to something that is happening in the classroom that we want to capture and learn about



(Includ	ood Classroom Weekly	ctivity)
Date <u>Nov.</u>	14-18, Teacher KVC	stie
	Child-Directed Activity Exploration	
Blocks Construct roads + ramp + measure how far marbles, + car will on them	balls. alitter to he	ic, weasure, pour,
Dramatic Play Costume Rox for childre to create own costum Fabric, scarves, hats, je Shoes, capes, wands, Pouches	nes.	The Pumption Seed "Kain Wakes Appleand" "All For Fall"
Pouches Manipulatives	Ongoing Projects	Writing Center
Practice Gelf-Help skills-provide boots, lacing boards,	Harvest	Stories + experience with pumpkins,
zippers, jackets to put on; wittens + gloves		apples, Family Flasts. Illustrate
Reading and Writing Read - "Rain Makes	Math Experiences	Scientific Investigations
Applegance - have children follow pattern in book. Make a	Sort + Classify apples, Squash, seeds, nuts, leave,	Place rotting in a clear container
Follow to make appleance	penecones, veri s,	to observe Keep journal of changes
Strategies to Relationship Building	Help Jack was	Activity Adjustments Ke positive choices
Help children, use "I fee stafements when	at centertime	Ke positive choices - follow-up +
statements when conflicts occur, offer hugs or high 5's	See is Julie sensor	will try The blay table since it's

Sample ECE Weekly Classroom Plan January, 2010
Adapted from Early Learning Standards and Staff Development by Gaye Gronlund and Marlyn James,

## Think and Plan with early learning standards/ performance indicators in mind

"In order to meet the skill/standard of \_\_\_\_,
we [do/provide/encourage] this [activity]" \_\_\_\_.

Example:

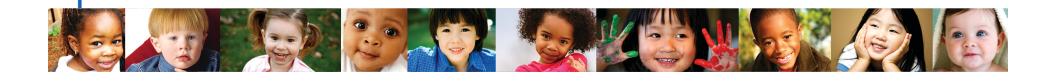
To meet the standard of <u>measurement</u>...we provide roads, ramps, balls, cars, marbles in the Block Center.

Adapted from Make Early Learning Standards Come Alive: Connecting Practice and Curriculum to State Guidelines by Gaye Gronlund, 2006

## How objective are you!

No two people will see the same child in identical ways. Two open and honest teachers can be asked to observe the same child. What they see and the interpretation they make will depend on what they decide to look for and on their own particular perspectives.

(Martin, S., Take a Look, 2007)



## Objective vs. Subjective Descriptions

Results Matter, Colorado Department of Education

#### **Objective**

Descriptions of your observations provide the facts and details with as little interpretation as possible

**Example**: There was a crowd of about 50 people in front of the museum

#### Subjective

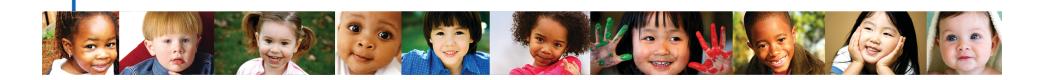
Descriptions of your observations are influenced by your opinions, past personal experiences, and background

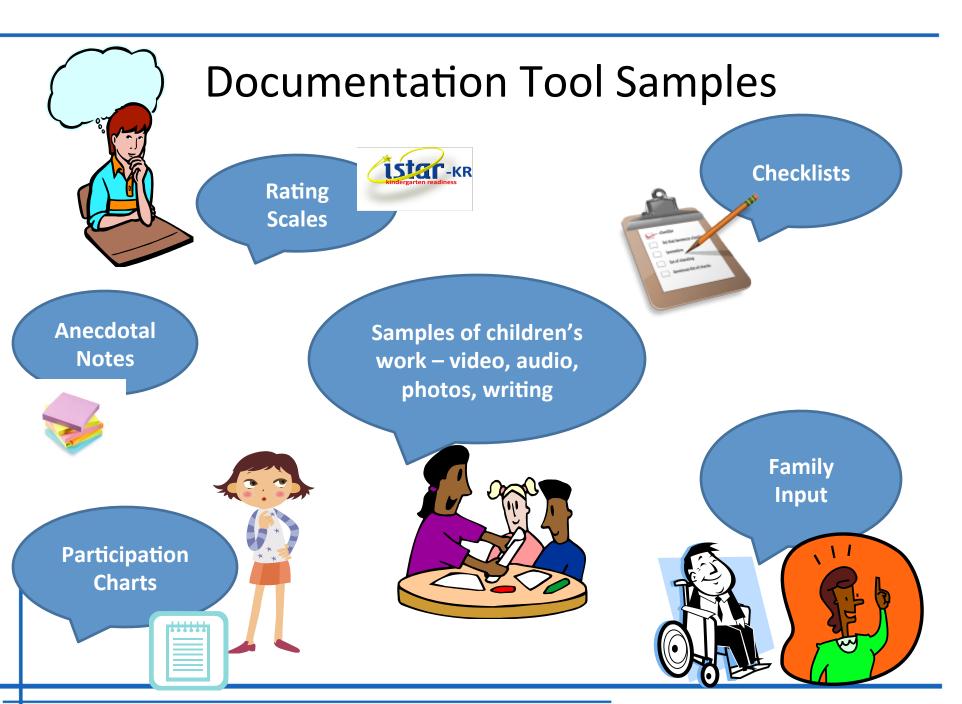
**Example**: There was an impatient crowd of about 50 people waiting endlessly to enter the museum

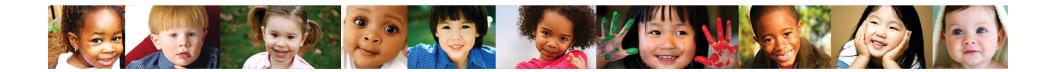
## Objective or Subjective?

Results Matter, Colorado Department of Education

- Sarah puts dishes on table for the bear and the doll and says "you...one...you...one... ME!"
- Tanaya sets the table, probably imitating how it happens at home.
- Zack has been crying because he misses his mom and is afraid she won't come back. He clings to his blanket for comfort.
- 4. Luis kisses his mom goodbye and smiles. He cries after the preschool door closes and then crawls on Ms. S's lap.







## **Documentation Tool Examples**

Use those that are:

**Efficient** 

Accessible

Aligned to selected assessment instrument

# Examples of Observation Notes for one child

2/14/08

H. lifts cap in air... says
"My oup!"

2/14/08

H. lifts cop in the air... says "My cup!" Sets it down on other side of plate.

2/14/08

H. moved macaroni
to spoon using pincer
grasp.

2/14/08

H. moved macaroni
from plate to spoon
Using pincer grasp,
then raking grasp, then
Pincer grasp.

#### Sensory and Thinking Skills Checklist

Date Child Skill – by 3 years old YES NO Follow simple one-step commands Recognize sounds in the environment Pay attention for about 3 minutes Remember what happened yesterday Know what is food and what is not food Know some numbers (but not always in the right order) Know where things usually belona Understand what "1" is Understand "now." "soon." and "later" Substitute one object for another in pretend play (as in pretending a block is a "car") Laugh at silly ideas (like "milking" a dog) Look through a book alone Match circles and squares Match an object to a picture of that object Match objects that have same function (as in putting a cup and plate together) Count 2 to 3 objects

#### CHECKLIST (sample)

(ISTAR KR, IN Dept Education)

School:			
Childs's Name:			
Child's Age:	Years:	Mor	nths:
Date of Observation:			
Observer:			
Matrix Area: PHYSICAL SH	CILIS		
Indicators:		YES	NO
Responds to sensory input with variety of behaviors	ıa		
Tolerates a variety of sensory in	put		
Regulates sensory input with assistance			
Applies a strategy to regulate sensory input			
Demonstrates strength in resisting gravity	ing		
Demonstrates movement with strength			
Demonstrates stability and balar in upright position with assistan	ice		
Demonstrates stability, balance, control in upright position	and		
Rolls			
Crawls, creeps			
Moves in upright position			
Regulates forward movement	t		
Sustains physical activity			
Reaches, grasps, and releases objects			
Releases objects with control			
Uses both hands in middle of bo	ody		
Throws, catches, and kicks obje	cts		
Throws, catches, kicks objects w control	rith		
Grasps small objects			
Isolates one or two fingers			
Uses fingers of two hands to			

#### **RATING SCALE: ISTAR KR - IN Dept Education**

These ISTAR Kindergarten Readiness matrices are based on the 2007 Indiana Academic Standards, and were first presented in 2009. The 2009 ISTAR KR matrices reflect the reliability, alignment, and standardization research completed in 2010. The skills below begin on the left with the least mature skills/indicators and progressively advance to the right to KG and 1st grade skills/indicators. Revised September, 2012.

## ISTAR-KR Matrix: English/Language Arts Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Federal Outcome 1, 2, 3

	ading Foundation nstrates awarenes		nological Awareness			
No Evidence	Responds to sounds in the environment	Produces a variety of sounds	Produces and blends the sounds of letter patterns into recognizable words	Compares sounds of different words	KG Standards Distinguishes sounds within words (to be mastered by end of KG)	1st Grade Standards (to be mastered by end of 1st grade)
T	Alerts to/facial expression changes and locates sounds in the environment (e.g. primary caregiver voice, pet, door bell)	Responds to sounds in the environment	Produces a variety of sounds	Produces and blends the sounds of letter patterns into recognizable words	Compares sounds of different words	Distinguishes sounds within words
	Finds hidden sound directly above and behind	Emulates sounds in the environment	Blends individual sounds into words	Matches sound that begins own name with the sound that begins another word or name	Distinguishes sounds within words	Distinguishes beginning sounds in single-syllable words
		Repeats sounds from familiar song, book	Repeats words from familiar song or book	Identifies words that sound alike	Identifies a new word from a word with a missing sound	Distinguishes middle sounds in single-syllable words
		Produces strings of sounds while looking at a book	Repeats a word from a spoken sentence string	Identifies words that rhyme	Identifies the beginning and ending sounds of a word	Distinguishes ending sounds in single-syllable words
Per	formance O	Acknowledges when bounds the conditions of the c	identifies words from a spoken sentence	Produces words that rhyme with oral prompts	Identifies how many sounds are heard	Recognizes different vowel sounds in orally stated single-syllable words
	Indicato		Identifies differences in letter sounds		Orders sounds heard	Recognizes that vowels' sounds can be represented by different letters
					Talentities observed in these	O

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### **Quick Recording Sheet**

Child Names	Date/Activity	Date Activity	Date/Activity	Date/Activity

Adapted from Early Learning Standards and Staff Development, 2008 Gaye Gronlund

#### **Brief Notes Sheet**

Child Names	Date/Activity

Adapted from Early Learning Standards and Staff Development, 2008 Gaye Gronlund Indiana Effective Evaluation Resource Center

#### **Observation Notes**

	Child Name:		
++•	Communication	Social/Emotional	
	Physical	Creative	
	Cognitive (math, symbols, problem-solving)	Early Literacy (reading/writing)	
d	apted from Early Learning Standards a	nd Staff Development, 2008 Gaye Gronlun	ıd

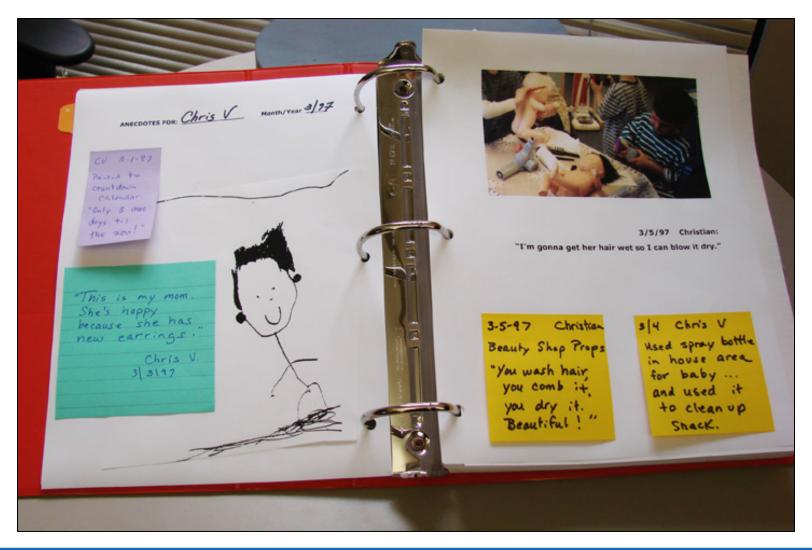
## **Toddler Choice/Participation**

aint Easel	Blocks	Dlay House	
aint Easei	BIOCKS	Play House	
Manipulatives	Crawling Area	Climbing Structure	
Book Corner	Sensory Table	Rocking Chair	

## Preschool Choice/Participation

Art	Social/Emotional	Dramatic Play	
Manipulatives	Science/Math	Music/Movement	
Library	Sensory Table	Writing Center	

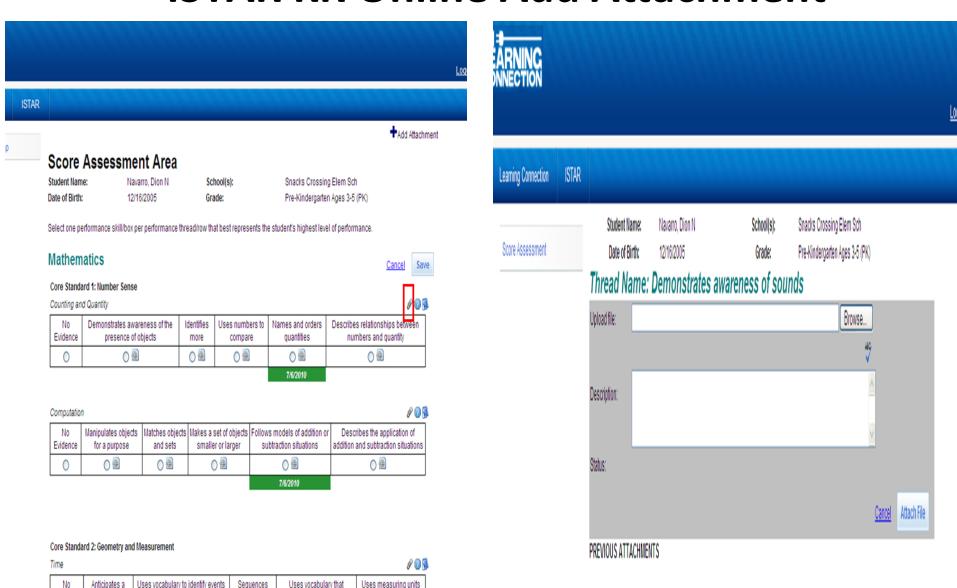
## **Traditional Portfolios**



## Work Samples



#### **ISTAR KR Online Add Attachment**



Evidence

0

routine

0 🚇

in a routine

0 🚇

events

0 🚇

measures time

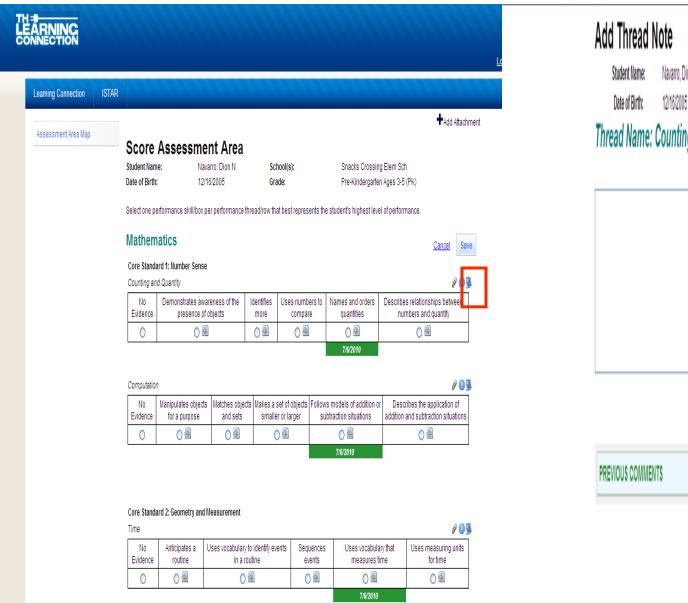
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7/6/2010

for time

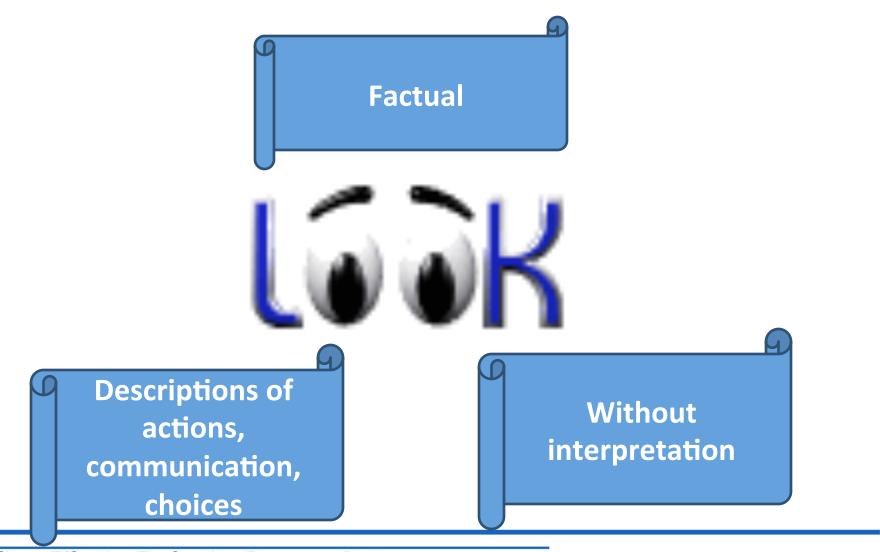
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#### **ISTAR KR Online Anecdotal Notes**





## **Objective Documentation is**



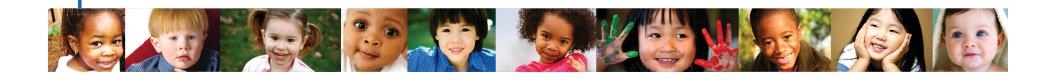
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## Child Observation

Video Clip



This time, observe with a focus:
Social-Emotional and Communication



## Reflection Experience

- 1. What was different this time you observed?
- 2. How did the focus of a specific developmental area change what you recorded?
- 3. Did the focus of a developmental area make recording your observations more efficient? Why? or Why not?
- 4. Was your observation objective or did you interpret what you observed?



Intentional lesson plans allow us to focus our observations on particular skills.

This is how accurate documentation is achieved.



I've done my observations and have my documentation, now what?





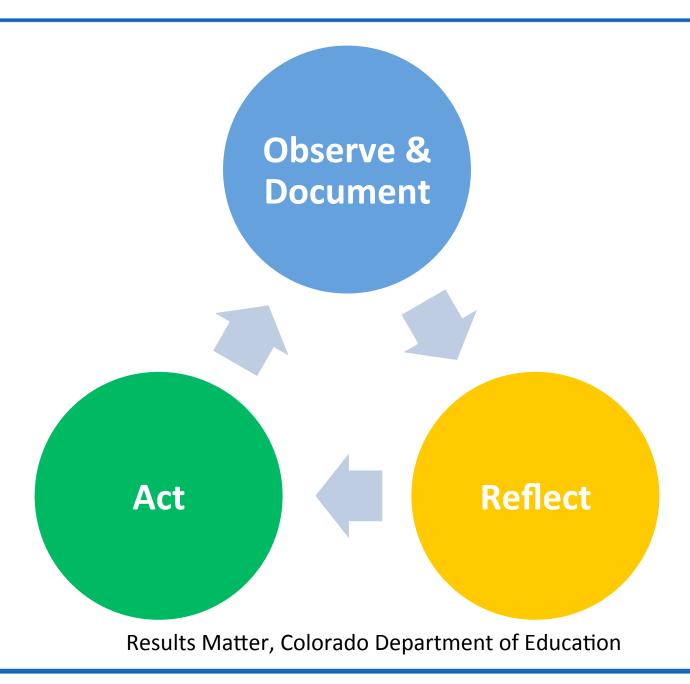










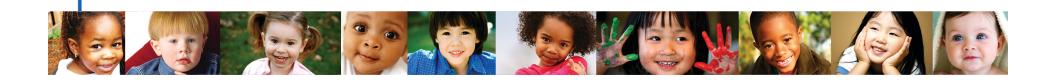


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#### Think and reflect on the child

Results Matter, Colorado Department of Education; 2009

- What was my purpose for observing?
- What similarities or patterns do I notice?
- What do these observations seem to suggest?
- What else might be going on?
- What else do I want to observe or find out?
- How does this observation fit with other things that I know about the child from previous observations?
- How will I document my interpretations?





# Linking Documentation to Curriculum Planning

Video clip

Results Matter, Colorado Department of Education

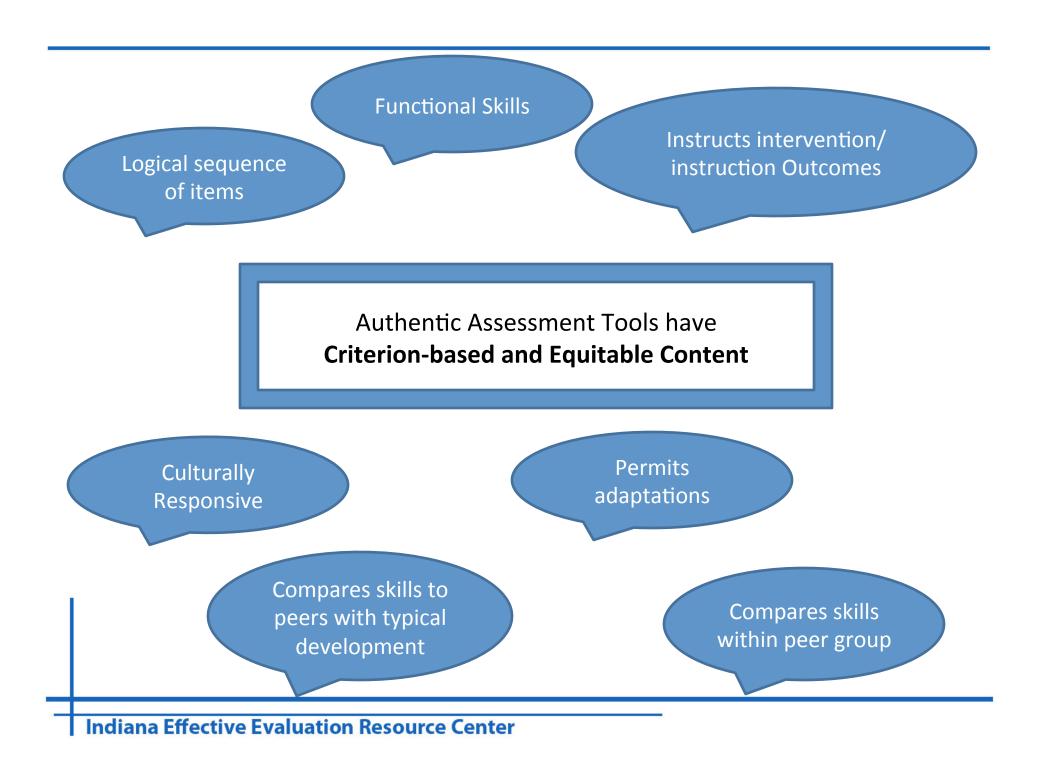
## USE CHILD ASSESSMENT DATA TO...

Create and Implement Intentional Lesson Plan

Determine Child Progress

Complete an Assessment Instrument

Share Information



## Getting Started with Authentic Assessment

- Recognize that early learning is rapid, individual, and foundational for future school success
- Understand early learning expectations and benchmarks
- 3. Focus on child accomplishments, not deficits
- 4. Make focused observations a routine in your practice
- Make documentation a habit and create a portfolio of student work samples from multiple sources

- 6. Make time to collaborate with colleagues AND family members to gain input
- 7. Reflect on and use your observations/ documentation
- 8. Adopt a researched-based assessment framework that is reliable, valid and appropriate
- Know that it takes time to become proficient in authentic assessment
- 10. Commit to ongoing professional development



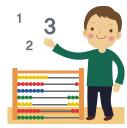
#### **Observation and Documentation System**







Early Learning Standards







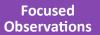




















**Thank YOU!** 

Questions: scrawford@doe.in.gov

317 234-5596



## So Many Ways to Learn Video clip

Results Matter, Colorado Department of Education

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### Resources and References

- Desired Results Access Project, Results Matter, Napa County Office of Education, Colorado; Larry Edelman, 2005
- The MisMeasure of Young Children: The Authentic Assessment Alternative; J. Neisworth, S. Bagnato, Infants and Young Children Vol.1 17, No. 3, pp. 198-212, Lippincott Williams and Wilkins, 2004
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